

for 8 years, she has given her time to veterans for longer than many people stay at a single job!

David Glimer, Administrative Officer for the VA's Inverness Community Based Outpatient Clinic has said of Joan, "She not only provides valuable assistance to the veterans who receive care at the Inverness Clinic, but leadership to the other volunteers who help support the VA's mission here in Inverness."

She's given to the veterans of the Fifth Congressional District as nobly and as altruistically as they've given to all of us. Her service is a testament to the value and virtue of helping others.

Mr. Speaker I ask that you join me in commending Joan for her efforts. I am honored to be her representative in Congress. She is one of the reasons that I am so very proud to represent the Fifth Congressional District of Florida in the House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF THE NAAMANS LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to some new Delaware heroes—The Naamans Little League All-Stars. The team impressed, inspired and awed Delaware through their dedication, hard work and immense talent. All these qualities impress but more importantly they helped the team succeed in reaching the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, a feat unmatched by any other team in Delaware history.

Jarad Carney, Kevin Czachorowski, Scott Dougherty, Cory Firmani, Danny Frate, Constantine Fournaris, Michael Julian, Zachary Lopes, Tim Marcin, David Mastro, Vince Russomagno, Kip Skibicki along with Manager Joe Mascelli, Coach Bob Waters and Coach H.J. Lopes all deserve our congratulations. There are so many great players, coaches and great teams in the Little League World Series and we are all so proud of our team for playing so well, playing so hard and making it so far. Each deserves recognition for his achievements.

For those friends and family who couldn't travel with the team, it was certainly a great joy to watch them play on national television. It was an even greater joy to watch them win on national television. But winning is not the only pillar of success. Effort, sacrifice, enjoyment, and friendship are just as important. Even through our television sets we could see these crucial pieces of a great team.

Mr. Speaker, Along with their friends and families, I wish to congratulate the Naamans Little League All-Stars for becoming the Mid-Atlantic Regional Champions. The past few weeks have been exciting, they have made us proud, they have taken a place in Delaware history and they have set a great standard not only for Little League baseball in Delaware, but for Little League Baseball throughout the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WAYNE B.
SALTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. Wayne B. Salter, and his 30 years of service as a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Salter has held various positions within the order, actively living by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks' principles of "Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity."

Since Mr. Salter's initiation into Long Branch, New Jersey's Elks Lodge #742 he has served as Esquire, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, and Esteemed Leading Knight. He has also held the position of Exalted Ruler for three terms, member of the Board of Trustees two times, Chairman of the Board, and Chairman of the P.E.R. Association.

Mr. Salter is a stellar member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, an organization that has been helping, and volunteering for communities all over the world since it's founding in 1868. This society is rooted in tradition with the goal to improve life for all. Mr. Salter has done just this, time and time again going above the call of duty. During his term as Leading Knight, Mr. Salter was secretary for the Leading Knights' Clinic as well as chairing most Lodge Committees. Mr. Salter's concern for the greater good of his community led him to take the position of District Chairman for Drug Awareness at which time the State Elks Peer Leadership Program was started.

Mr. Salter has been an invaluable member to the Long Branch Elks Lodge having served on many different committees as well as chairing, the Elks House Committee and Public Relations Committee. For his devoted service, The Long Branch Elks honored him in 1993 by electing him to be Honorary Life Member.

Today, Mr. Salter holds the office of Vice President of the South Central District of the New Jersey State Elks Association. The tireless amount of time and energy that Mr. Salter has given to the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks should be applauded. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Salter for the thoughtful, community-building work that he has been involved with for the past 30 years as a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
JEREMY P. HOGAN, LANCE CORPORAL
JAMES DILEO, PETTY OFFICER
NICHOLAS SNIPES AND INFANTRYMAN
PATRICK BARKER FOR SERVICE IN IRAQ

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jeremy P. Hogan, Marine Reserve Lance Corporal

James Dileo, United States Navy Petty Officer Nicholas Snipes and United States Army Infantryman Patrick Barker from my Fifth Congressional District of Florida for their military service in the Middle East. They and their families reside in Crystal River, Citrus County, Florida. In the wake of September 11, 2001, the need to respond to the dangers of terrorism remains vital to our survival. Now that we know of these dangers, we as a nation led by individuals such as these three brave men, continue to respond successfully. Undoubtedly, their efforts overseas helped liberate an oppressed people from a terrorist regime and made the world a safer place for generations to come.

Please allow me to welcome these troops and troops from all over the world as they return home. The courage they displayed during their stints in the Middle East are exemplary of the America spirit. Their heroism and dedication is what makes our country the most gracious and noble nation on earth. Their bravery will not be forgotten as Americans and freedom loving people all over the world are indebted to their service.

H.R. 2861, THE FISCAL YEAR 2004
VA/HUD AND INDEPENDENT
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
BILL

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was forced to vote against the fiscal year 2004 VA-HUD spending bill today.

However, I could not, in good conscience, vote in favor of a bill that so clearly fails to meet the needs of our nation's veterans.

A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to maintain the status quo, a status quo that has resulted in six month waiting lists, increased out-of-pocket expenses, and limited coverage for many veterans. My vote against this bill is a signal that the status quo is totally unacceptable.

I am not alone in condemning the VA-HUD appropriations bill for its failure to meet the needs of those who selflessly served our country in the armed forces. As top officials of national veterans organizations, including AMVETS, PVA, DAV, and VFW, wrote to Congress regarding H.R. 2861, the legislation is "wholly inadequate" and "represents a flagrant disregard to promises made to veterans by this Congress."

H.R. 2861 is \$2.1 billion below the level set for veterans programs in the House Republican budget resolution. While I thought the House budget resolution was itself inadequate, a lower funding level is a slap in the face to veterans. H.R. 2861 is also \$3.3 billion below the levels requested by national veterans organizations. The bill includes shortfalls for medical care, medical research and construction, among other areas.

Mr. Speaker, the federal budget is about priorities. The lack of support for veterans programs in H.R. 2861 shows what happens when the President and his allies in Congress prioritize tax cuts for millionaires over adequately meeting our commitment to veterans.

I reject that prioritization, which is why I voted against this bill. My vote was in favor of